

**Order of the City of Columbia Director of
Public Health and Human Services**

Order No. 2020-01

**Notice and Issuance of Rules and Regulations
regarding Gatherings in the City of Columbia**

Facts

1. The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and has now been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including in the United States.

2. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (“COVID-19”).

3. COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease that has been spreading rapidly worldwide since approximately December, 2019.

4. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency and the Governor of Missouri declared a state of emergency in Missouri.

5. As of March 15, 2020, SARS-CoV-2 virus has been responsible for nearly 200,000 cases of COVID-19 resulting in over 6,000 deaths worldwide.

6. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has warned against large gatherings of people:

“Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings

include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.

7. In addition, the CDC has urged restriction on the size of any gathering consistent with local conditions.

8. The CDC has raised particular concern about the health and susceptibility of high-risk individuals, including the elderly, and those people with blood disorders, chronic kidney and liver disease, compromised immune systems (immunosuppression), recent pregnancy, endocrine disorders, metabolic disorders, heart disease, lung disease, and neurological conditions (collectively “High-Risk Individuals”).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>.

9. COVID-19 has now been detected in the State of Missouri and is believed to be present in the City of Columbia, with local condition expected to include an increase of infections consistent with national trends unless significant containment efforts successfully limit the local spread of the virus.

Legal Basis of Rules and Regulations

10. Among other authority that may be available under Missouri and United States law, Sec. 11-97 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances (“Code”) states:

Whenever the director shall declare that any malignant, infectious or contagious disease is or may become epidemic in the city, or any part thereof, he shall immediately, or as soon thereafter as possible, give notice

to that effect to the citizens of the city and the country surrounding the same, and shall also give notice of the rules and regulations adopted by him for the enforcement of quarantine within the city or portion thereof. He shall take such steps and adopt such measures as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spreading of such disease, and to this end he shall have power to quarantine the city against persons coming into or leaving the city during the continuation of such epidemic. Whenever he shall deem it necessary, he shall have the power to forbid and prevent the assembling of congregations of persons within the city and to order and enforce the closing of places of business and amusements.

Therefore, based on the foregoing facts and the authority that exists under federal, state and local law, I declare that SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 are contagious diseases that are or may become epidemic in the city and enact the following regulations for the City of Columbia, notice of which is hereby given.

Rules and Regulations

Article I. Restrictions on Public Gatherings

Section 1.01 Purpose and construction of rules and regulations. The purpose of the rules and regulations contained herein is to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. The rules and regulations established herein are remedial in nature and should be interpreted consistent with the intended purpose.

Section 1.02 Bars and nightclubs without food service. All bars, taverns,

brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in the City of Columbia that do not prepare food for on-site consumption shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

Section 1.03 Restaurants and retail food facilities. All restaurants and retail food facilities that prepare food for on-site consumption in the City of Columbia shall limit dine-in food service occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises. In addition to on-site service to customers in compliance with these rules, restaurants and retail food facilities may continue to operate for purposes of preparing and offering food to customers via delivery service, to be picked up or for drive-thru. “Restaurants and retail food facilities” includes but is not limited to bars, taverns, brew pubs, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in the City of Columbia that also prepare food for on-site consumption. The City of Columbia shall not enforce any provision of an ordinance, permit, or other restriction that

would, as applied to the specific circumstances, prohibit an existing restaurant or retail food facility from providing delivery service, window service, walk-up service, drive-through service, or drive-up service during the state of emergency declared by the City Manager on March 16, 2020.

Section 1.04 Entertainment venues. All movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys and arcades and other entertainment venues shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

Section 1.05 Gym and fitness facilities. All gyms and fitness centers shall limit occupancy to fifty percent (50%) of the capacity otherwise allowed pursuant to fire or building codes up to a maximum of fifty people, including employees and staff located on premises.

Section 1.06 Limitation on other public gatherings.

- (a) All other intentional gatherings or gathering places not specifically referenced in this Article are limited to fifty people, including both public and private gatherings. This section does not apply to places of business not open to the public.
- (b) All gatherings of High-Risk Individuals are limited to ten people.
- (c) All concerts, conferences (greater than 50% venue capacity or 50 people, whichever is less) and indoor sporting events are prohibited.

Section 1.07 Exemptions. The following are exempt from the restriction in

this Article:

- (a) Cafeterias, commissaries, and restaurants located within hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities;
- (b) Adult detention facilities and juvenile justice facilities, or similar facilities.
- (c) Grocery stores and the Columbia Farmers Market at 1769 W. Ash Street, except that dine-in facilities in a grocery store remain subject to the restrictions in this article and shall reduce allowed seating in the dine-in facility by fifty percent (50%) or limit seating to fifty patrons, whichever is less;
- (d) Pharmacies;
- (e) Food banks;
- (f) Crisis shelters or similar institutions.

So Ordered.



Stephanie Browning
Director, Columbia/Boone County
Department of Public Health and Human
Services

3.17.2020

Date